"road is such that the Division Officer has to be specially addressed every time a large "motor goes over it. As regards the road extension, it is all but at a stand-still. A "few miles are opened every year; that is all. The road system of the country is, to "all intents and purposes, practically what it was when Mr. A. H. Jacob left, although "in the meantime the population has increased by thirty per cent and the revenue by "more, and land values have increased fourfold. As regards the canal system, its "condition is a reproach to the State. The *vallam* traffic is enormous and steamer "traffic is developing fast. But the boats are continually in difficulties. There should "be a channel four feet deep from Trivandrum to Cochin; the cost of dredging should "be met by tolls, which, falling as they ultimately would on the "merchandise, would be nothing in comparison to the benefit given. "It seems to me that expenditure on these lines would tend more to the "development and benefit of the State than money expended on buildings." The Government note that, at successive Sessions of the Assembly, the majority of the representations made, relate to the need for new roads or to the improvements necessary in the existing ones. There can be no doubt that a great deal has to be done in this direction, and the Members may rest assured that, if it is not possible to give effect to their wishes as rapidly as they probably desire, it is not on account of any want of appreciation by the Government of the needs of the country in the matter of communications, but it is because of the circumstance that, with the limited volume of spare money at our disposal and the limited staff whose services we can command, progress has necessarily to be somewhat slow.

13. **The State Railway.**—The amount paid by the Government to make up the guaranteed interest on the State Railway was Bh. Rs. 1,66,000, against Bh. Rs. 1,71,000 in the previous year. There can be no doubt that the traffic of the Railway is developing, though slowly, as will be evident from the fact that the guaranteed interest paid by the Government has been going down for a series of years :—

1080	Bh. Rs. 2,78,000.
1081	„ 2,19,000.
1082	„ 2,38,000.
1083	„ 1,78,000.
1084	„ 1,88,000.
1085	„ 1,71,000.
1086	„ 1,66,000.

It is anticipated that the cancellation of the export duty on timber, referred to by me *supra*, will give a stimulus to the traffic of that commodity going over the Railway.

His Highness' Government have not yet received the plans and estimates for the extension of the State Railway from Quilon to Trivandrum. The authorities concerned have been asked to expedite the same.

14. **Vaccination.**—There was a substantial increase in the volume of vaccination work, the total number of vaccinations performed rising from 1,58,834 to 1,74,631. By an amendment to the Town Improvement Committee Regulation, passed during the latter part of 1085, the Government took power to make vaccination compulsory in the towns governed by that Regulation. In exercise of that power,

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